

2017

## Jon A. Reynolds Papers

Trinity College, Hartford Connecticut

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# **Jon A. Reynolds papers**

## **MS2016.001**

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Watkinson Library--Manuscript Collections

Trinity College Library  
300 Summit St.  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	Watkinson Library--Manuscript Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Reynolds, Jon A., 1937
<b>Title:</b>	Jon A. Reynolds papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS2016.001
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1957-2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	21.5 Cubic Feet In 18 records center cartons, 3 MS box and 2 flat boxes.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Correspondence, photographs, slides, transparencies, journals, brochures, maps, guides, posters, files, newspaper clippings, and military service awards documenting Jon A. Reynolds activities as a pilot, air traffic controller, and prisoner of war during the Vietnam War from 1963-1973; as well as a student at Trinity College, Duke University, and a teacher at the Naval War College (U.S.). The collection further documents Reynolds' roles as an Air Defense Attache to China (1984-1988), senior military assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (1988-1989), and finally, as Director of Defense Attache system until his retirement from the military in 1990 when he became President of Raytheon Company in China until 2003.

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## Biographical / Historical

Jon A. Reynolds was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1937. He attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, graduating in 1959 with a B.S. in Engineering. During his college years, he participated in the Air Force ROTC, attaining the rank of second lieutenant. Reynolds attended flight school in 1960-61, and then participated in Cold War deployments, including the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was later deployed to South Vietnam in 1963, where he flew 165 missions before being assigned to Thailand in 1964, where he participated in bombing runs on North Vietnam. His plane was shot down on November 28, 1965, and was taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese army. He remained a prisoner of war for over seven years, spending time in several POW camps, including the infamous Hanoi Hilton (Son Tay). Reynolds was released in February, 1973. He enrolled at Duke University later that year, earning an M.A. (1975) and a Ph.D. (1980) in military history. Reynolds posted to the US Air Force Academy as an instructor and director of the military history department and then to the

Naval War College. After attending Defense Intelligence School and receiving training in Mandarin Chinese, Reynolds served in Beijing, China, as Air Attaché (1984-1986) and Defense and Air Attaché (1986-1988) and Chief U.S. Military Representative in China from 1986-1988. Returning to the United States, he became the senior military assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force from 1988-1989, and then Director of the Defense Attaché System with the Defense Intelligence Agency until his retirement in 1990. He became the President of Raytheon Company, China from 1994-2003.

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## Scope and Contents

The Jon A. Reynolds papers primarily consist of correspondence, photographs, slides, transparencies, journals, brochures, maps, guides, posters, files, newspaper clippings, and military service awards. This collection contains four main components: Reynolds' experience in the Vietnam Conflict, his appointment as Air and Air Defense Attaché and assistant to Secretary of the Air Force, as well as his post-military position as President of Raytheon Company, and time spent in his undergraduate and graduate studies, teaching and research. They are divided into four corresponding series: Series I (U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, 1963-1996) documents the creator's time as a pilot, air traffic controller, and POW/MIA in North Vietnam; Series II (U.S. Air Force Military Defense, 1984-1990) documents cultural, social, and military life primarily in China, and the Soviet Union during the 1980s; Series III (President of Raytheon Company, 1994-2010) contains records of the company's business activities in China, while Series IV (Education and Teaching, 1955-1981) contains coursework, research, teaching materials, and ephemera from various Trinity organizations.

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## Arrangement

Series 1: U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, 1960-1996, Series 2: U.S. Air Force Military Defense, 1984-2013, Series 3: President of Raytheon Company, 1994-2010, Series 4: Education and Teaching, 1955-1981.

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## Administrative Information

### Publication Statement

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Trinity College Library  
300 Summit St.  
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### Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open with no access restrictions.

### Processing Information

The Biographical History was written by Miriam Neiman. Series 1 also processed by Miriam Neiman in Spring 2016. Michelle C. Sigiel arranged and described formerly unprocessed and newly acquired portions of the collection that accrued between Spring and Fall 2016 as well as materials remaining unprocessed from the initial accession 2015-001 in Spring 2016.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Vietnam War, 1961-1975-Prisoners and prisons, American.
- United States--Military Relations--China.
- United States. Air Force--History.
- Trinity College (Hartford, Conn.) Alumni and alumnae.
- Reynolds, Jon A., 1937
- Raytheon Company

## Collection Inventory

### **Series 1: U.S. Air Force Pilot and Forward Air Controller in Vietnam , 1963-1996**

Physical Description: 3.5 Cubic Feet 2 RSC boxes, 2 manuscript boxes, 1 flat box

## Scope and Contents

This series contains scrapbooks, newsletters, photographs, slides, letters, greeting cards expressing solidarity with Reynolds family during his capture and welcoming him home. It also includes Prisoner of War (POW) bracelets distributed by VIVA (Voices in Vital America) at the time of the POW/MIAs capture with Jon A. Reynolds capture date on the side, and other POW/MIA ephemera.

A scrapbook of photographs documents Reynolds training and flight school with the U.S. Air Force in Alabama, Missouri, New Mexico, and California, missions he ran in Turkey with the 492nd Tactical Fighter Squadron during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, and the bombing raids on North Vietnam in which he piloted an F-105 (Thunderchief) bomber from Thailand in 1964-1965.

Newsletters issued to Reynolds during his time training, as a Forward Air Controller, and as a pilot in Vietnam, convey behavior expectations of the U.S. Air Force when interacting with South Vietnamese, Vietnamese culture, associated press interviews and briefings, and how to respond if captured by the North Vietnamese.

Photographs and slides depict the landscape and culture of Vietnam and Thailand, especially the cities of Saigon and Takhli, along with U.S. bombers, aerial shots, and ethnic minorities such as the Montagnardi who frequently assisted the U.S. in gathering intelligence on the North Vietnamese.

It also contains several boxes of letters, and cards related to Reynolds time as a POW. Letters written to his family from friends, relatives, and strangers who received POW bracelets and decided to write to his family to show their support during his captivity and upon his release.

Title/Description	Instances
<b>Box 1: Vietnam, pre-capture, 1963-1965</b>	
<b>Box 2: Vietnam, POW and post-captivity, 1965-1974</b>	
<b>Box 3: Vietnam, POW and post-captivity, 1971-1978</b>	
<b>Box 4: Vietnam, welcome home letters, 1973</b>	
<b>Box 5: Vietnam, POW-related, 1973-1996</b>	

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## Series 2: U.S. Air Force Military Defense , 1984-2013

Physical Description: 13 Cubic Feet 12 RSC, 1 manuscript box, 1 flat box

### Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence, photographs, slides, magazines, periodicals, brochures, travel guides, maps, and files from Jon A. Reynolds career as an Air/Air Defense Attaché in China, Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, and Director of the Defense Attaché system.

This series includes several albums of photographs depicting performances of the People's Liberation Air Force Dance Troup (China), and the U.S. Air Force Band's visit to China. These photographs contain celebrations, meetings, performances, and conferences between members of the military.

Several boxes of photographs and slides depict scenery and life in Kiev, Moscow, as well as the demonstration of rocket launches and engineering at the Baikonur space center in the Ukraine from a SECAF visit in July, 1988. Slides of a visit to Baikonur space center capture prominent Soviet military leaders such as commanders of the Soviet Air Force, and U.S. Air Force officials and diplomats. Photographs contain monuments to socialism, churches, social gatherings of officials at dachas and conference halls, as well as the downtown areas of Kiev and Moscow.

Also includes files and photographs from Reynolds' 1988 visits to Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands such as Guam, Aleutian and Marshall Islands include informational brochures, photographs, and notes from when he went there on a SECAF assignment. Photographs contain radar systems, military outposts, specifically from the Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll, as well as temples and cultural centers, city and rural life in the Pacific, and meetings between U.S. Air Force officials and local dignitaries.

A portion of the series contains notes, reports, and trip itineraries from Reynolds' time as Director of the Defense Attaché system where his duties consisted of auditing defense and intelligence in various Latin American and African countries, as well as documenting the end of the Cold War and collapse of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe.

Title/Description	Instances
<b>Box 6: Photographs-Australia, Brunei, Southeast Asia, 1988-1989</b>	
<b>Box 7: China, Vietnam, 1984undated</b>	
<b>Box 8: China , 1986-1987</b>	
<b>Box 9: China, Africa, 1989-1990</b>	
<b>Box 10: China, 1984-1987</b>	
<b>Box 11: China, Russia, 1988-1989</b>	
<b>Box 12: China , undated</b>	
<b>Box 13: China, 1986-1988</b>	
<b>Box 14: China, Vietnam, Latin America, 1967-1987</b>	
<b>Box 15: China, Russia, 1984-1989</b>	
<b>Box 16: Russia, 1988</b>	
<b>Box 17: Military awards/citations, 1974-2013</b>	
<b>Box 18: Miltiary awards/citations, 1966-2009</b>	
<b>Box 19: Military regalia, 1962-1990</b>	



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### **Series 3: Raytheon Company , 1994-2010**

Physical Description: 2 Cubic Feet 2 RSC

#### **Scope and Contents**

This series primarily consists of photographs, and correspondence documenting the business activities of Raytheon Company in China during the 1990s such as the supply of air traffic control equipment, radar, calibration and navigation, and commercial jets.

Photographs include depictions of employees, office culture, air shows such as one held in Zhu Hai in 1996, and meetings held in China between the company and potential partners. Photographs depict leisure activities such as family travels in China and Australia to zoos, museums, and cities.

Letters include discussion of Raytheon’s goals and role in the development of the Chinese commercial aircraft and radar sector.

Also included are slides and photographs depicting former North Vietnam and Son Tay prison taken during a visit in 2003.

Also contains files related to Reynolds’ induction into the Aviation Hall of Fame (1992), and Defense Intelligence Agency Hall of Fame (2009).

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

**Box 20: United States Air Force retirement- Raytheon Company employment, 1994-1999**

**Box 21: Raytheon Company- retirement, 1999-2010**

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### **Series 4: Education and Teaching , 1955-1981**

Physical Description: 3 Cubic Feet 3 RSC boxes

#### **Scope and Contents**

This series contains coursework, and school ephemera from Reynolds time as a student at Trinity College (1955-1959), research files from his graduate studies at Duke University, as well as a period during which Reynolds taught at the Naval War College (1980-1981). Correspondence with Richard Bond Stockdale, Vice Admiral of Navy, discuss Reynolds’ studies and potential career paths in light of his experience as a POW.

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

**Box 22: Naval Academy, Naval War College, 1979-1981**

**Box 23: Trinity ephemera, course catalogs, syllabi, 1955-1959**

## **Box 24: Graduate work, research files, 1973-1981**

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